



## U.S. Department of Justice

National Drug Intelligence Center

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Center

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### **Oklahoma Drug Threat Assessment Shows Methamphetamine Production Increasing in the State**

Methamphetamine is the greatest drug threat to Oklahoma and abuse of the drug is increasing in the state, according to the *Oklahoma Drug Threat Assessment* compiled by the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), a component agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. The assessment is a statewide report that addresses the status and outlook of the drug threat to Oklahoma. It measures the abuse, availability, production and distribution of illicit drugs such as methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, heroin and other dangerous drugs such as club drugs.

According to the October 2002 *Oklahoma Drug Threat Assessment*, methamphetamine production is increasing in the state, and laboratory seizures increased dramatically from 1995 through 2001. Methamphetamine laboratory seizures increased from 34 in 1995 to 1,193 in 2001, according to the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control. In the first three months of 2002, there were 231 methamphetamine laboratories seized in the state. There were 131 methamphetamine laboratory seizures in Oklahoma City alone in the first six months of 2002.

Abuse trends also indicate an increase in usage in the state. The number of methamphetamine-related treatment admissions to publicly funded facilities in Oklahoma increased from 2,191 in 1997 to 3,231 in 2001, according to the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) compiled by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Methamphetamine-related overdoses and deaths have also increased in the state. Nonfatal methamphetamine-related overdoses increased from 40 in 1999 to 44 in 2000. Methamphetamine-related deaths in Oklahoma County in which it was a contributing factor but not the sole cause of death increased overall from 39 in 1996 to 56 in 2000, according to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) mortality data. Methamphetamine was the only drug detected in 12 of the 56 methamphetamine-related deaths in 2000.

In addition, law enforcement personnel throughout Oklahoma reported a record number of methamphetamine seizures in 2000, the most recent data available. The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety reported that seizures of methamphetamine by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol more than doubled from 54 pounds in 1999 to 128 pounds in 2000. During the first quarter of 2000, agents with the District 27 Drug Task Force, which serves Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, and Wagoner Counties, seized 281 pounds of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of \$12.5 million.

According to the assessment, the most common type of methamphetamine available throughout the state is powdered methamphetamine. Crystal methamphetamine, a colorless, odorless, smokable form of d-methamphetamine commonly known as ice, also is available in the state.

Methamphetamine is being manufactured in the state, primarily by local independent producers. The drug is also transported into Oklahoma from Mexico, California, and Arizona by Mexican drug trafficking organizations and criminal groups. These organizations and groups are also the primary wholesale distributors of the drug within the state. Mexican criminal groups, Caucasian criminal groups, street gangs, independent dealers, and to a lesser extent, outlaw motorcycle gangs distribute methamphetamine at the retail level.

The 26-page assessment gives a detailed account of other drugs that also pose major threats to the state including cocaine, marijuana, heroin and club drugs such as MDMA (ecstasy), Rohypnol, GHB, LSD and ketamine. Information for the report is derived from a variety of sources including state and local police, demand reduction and treatment providers as well as federal government agencies.

A copy of the *Oklahoma Drug Threat Assessment* is available on NDIC's web site at [www.usdoj.gov/ndic](http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic)